IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer readable recording medium storing a diagnosis supporting program for controlling a computer, said program ~~comprising~~ performing:

detecting a lesion position from a diagnosis target image;

extracting image-wise feature quantities of the lesion position detected by said detecting;

retrieving reference images which are image-wise similar to the diagnosis target image out of a database stored with reference images and feature quantities of reference images, based on said ~~feature~~ extracting ~~function~~; and

calculating image-wise similarities between each of the reference images stored in the database and the diagnosis target image, respectively, by matching the feature quantities of each of the reference images stored in the database with the feature quantities of the diagnosis target image,

wherein the diagnosis target image and the reference images comprise at least one of CT images and MRI images,

wherein said retrieving retrieves reference images in order of similarity as calculated by said calculating, ~~and~~

wherein said calculating calculates similarities, taking into account a weighting set for each organ~~.~~; and

wherein the weighting set is set so as to correspond to the feature quantities of each of a plurality of organs and the corresponding reference images.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising:

registering the diagnosis target image and the feature quantities thereof into the database.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 1,

wherein said weighting is set in a variably constituted table.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising:

displaying findings related to the reference images retrieved by said retrieving.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 1,

wherein said detecting detects a lesion position of a designated organ.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A computer readable recording medium according to claim 1,

wherein said extracting extracts a global feature quantity, a topical feature quantity and a common feature quantity, for every lesion position of the diagnosis target image.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A diagnosis supporting apparatus comprising:

lesion position detecting means for detecting a lesion position from a diagnosis target image;

feature quantity extracting means for extracting image-wise feature quantities of the lesion position detected by said lesion position detecting means;

reference image retrieving means for retrieving reference images which are image-wise similar to the diagnosis target image out of a database stored with reference images and feature quantities of reference images, based on the feature quantities extracted by said feature quantity extracting means; and

similarity calculating means for calculating image-wise similarities between each of the reference images stored in said database and the diagnosis target image, respectively, by matching the feature quantities of each of the reference images stored in said database with the feature quantities of the diagnosis target image,

wherein the diagnosis target image and the reference images comprise at least one of CT images and MRI images;

wherein said reference image retrieving means retrieves reference images in order of similarity as calculated by said similarity calculating means, ~~and~~

wherein said similarity calculating means calculates similarities, taking into account a weighting set for each organ~~.~~, and

wherein the weighting set is set so as to correspond to the feature quantities of each of a plurality of organs and the corresponding reference images.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

database registering means for registering said diagnosis target image and feature quantities thereof into said database.

11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9,

wherein said weighting is set in a variably constituted table.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:

finding displaying means for displaying findings related to the reference images retrieved by said reference image retrieving means.

15. (ORIGINAL) A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9,

wherein said lesion position detecting means detects a lesion position of a designated organ.

16. (ORIGINAL) A diagnosis supporting apparatus of claim 9,

wherein said feature quantity extracting means extracts a global feature quantity, a topical feature quantity and a common feature quantity, for every lesion position of the diagnosis target image.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A diagnosis supporting method comprising:

a lesion position detecting process for detecting a lesion position from a diagnosis target image;

a feature quantity extracting process for extracting image-wise feature quantities of the lesion position detected by said lesion position detecting process;

a reference image retrieving process for retrieving reference images which are image-wise similar to the diagnosis target image out of a database stored with reference images and feature quantities of reference images, based on the feature quantities extracted by said feature quantity extracting process; and

a similarity calculating process for calculating image-wise similarities between each of the reference images stored in said database and the diagnosis target image, respectively, by matching the feature quantities of each of the reference images stored in said database with the feature quantities of the diagnosis target image,

wherein the diagnosis target image and the reference images comprise at least one of CT images and MRI images;

wherein said reference image retrieving process retrieves reference images in order of similarity as calculated by said similarity calculating process, ~~and~~

wherein said similarity calculating process calculates similarities, taking into account a weighting set for each organ~~.~~, and

wherein the weighting set is set so as to correspond to the feature quantities of each of a plurality of organs and the corresponding reference images.

18. (ORIGINAL) A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17, further comprising:

a database registering process for registering said diagnosis target image and feature quantities thereof into said database.

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17, wherein said weighting is set in a variably constituted table.

22. (ORIGINAL) A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17, further comprising:

a finding displaying process for displaying findings related to the reference images retrieved by said reference image retrieving process.

23. (ORIGINAL) A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17,

wherein said lesion position detecting process detects a lesion position of a designated organ.

24. (ORIGINAL) A diagnosis supporting method of claim 17,

wherein said feature quantity extracting process extracts a global feature quantity, a topical feature quantity and a common feature quantity, for every lesion position of the diagnosis target image.

25. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The diagnosis supporting method comprising:

detecting a lesion position from a target image;

extracting image-wise feature quantities of the detected lesion position;

retrieving reference images which are image-wise similar to a target image out of a database storing reference images and feature quantities of reference images, based on the extracted feature quantities; and

calculating image-wise similarities between each of the reference images and the target image by matching the feature quantities of each of the reference images with the feature quantities of the target image, wherein the reference images are retrieved in order of similarity as calculated by said calculating image-wise similarities, and wherein said calculating comprises calculating similarities, taking into account a weighting set for each organ,

wherein the target image and the reference images comprise at least one of CT images and MRI images, and

wherein the weighting set is set so as to correspond to the feature quantities each of a plurality of organs and the corresponding reference images.